

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
10/022,095
Examiner
Michael J Kyle

Applicant(s)
VIGNOTTO ET AL.
Art Unit
3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 24, 2004.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.

3. The drawings filed on 17 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 09102004.
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Gresens on September 8, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Sealing device for a rolling contact bearing comprising:
 - two races which are coaxial to each other, defining inner and outer sides;
 - two inserts which are made of metal material and which are each coupled to a relative race;
 - at least one sealing lip which extends between the two inserts; and
 - a phonic wheel which is supported by a more external of the two inserts;
 - wherein the more external of the two inserts comprises an annular housing for supporting and at least partially containing the phonic wheel, the annular housing axially opening towards [an outside] the outer side of the bearing and including a shield which is made of a vulcanised rubber material arranged in such a way as to completely seal the phonic wheel and the housing.

2. (Previously Presented) Sealing device according to Claim 1, wherein the housing is radially delimited by a first and a second cylindrical wall which form part of the more external insert; wherein the first cylindrical wall defines an internal radial support for the phonic wheel, and the second wall defines an annular channel with the other insert.
3. (Previously Presented) Sealing device according to Claim 2, wherein the second wall presents a cylindrical edge, which is folded towards the other insert and which defines an outer radial limit for the shield made of vulcanised rubber.
4. (Previously Presented) Sealing device according to Claim 3, wherein the shield comprises two opposite radial ends which respectively define a static seal against a race of the bearing, and a dynamic seal which substantially seals the annular channel.
5. (Currently amended) Sealing device for a rolling contact bearing comprising:
 - two races which are coaxial to each other, defining inner and outer sides;
 - two inserts which are made of metal material and which are each coupled to a relative race;
 - at least one sealing lip which extends between the two inserts; and
 - a phonic wheel which is supported by a more external of the two inserts;
 - wherein the more external of the two inserts comprises an annular housing for containing

the phonic wheel, the annular housing axially opening towards [an outside] the outer side of the bearing and including two sidewalls that are orientated at opposite side edges of a phonic wheel; and

a shield which is made of vulcanised rubber material that spans the sidewalls and is arranged in such a way as to completely seal [a] the phonic wheel in the housing.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Sealing devices for rolling bearing that include two races, two inserts, a sealing lip extending between the inserts, and a phonic wheel, are known in the art (Varvello et al). However, the prior art does not show a more external of the two inserts to include an annular housing that at least partially contains the phonic wheel, axially opens towards an outer side of the bearing, and includes shield that completely seals the phonic wheel and the housing.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

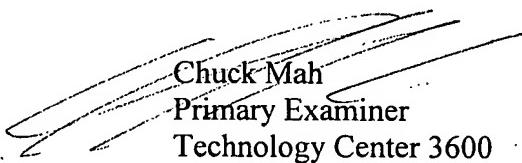
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J Kyle whose telephone number is 703-305-3614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

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6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on 703-308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mk


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